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THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014

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ENVIRONMENT: Lifetime achievement award for Port Colborne man

Greenpeace's Ruzyski feted by region

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

Paul Ruzyski has spent more than half his life fighting for the environmental causes he believes in.

But he's not done yet. The 49-year-old Port Colborne man was given a lifetime achievement award last week as part of Niagara Region's Environment Awards. In its announcement, the region said Ruzyski has dedicated his life to raising awareness

around algae blooms, climate change and water quality.

"Through his work, Mr. Ruzyski engages young people by reinforcing the importance of becoming active and voicing concerns over environmental degradation to local, municipal and federal governments. Mr. Ruzyski's work has meaningful impacts not only in the Niagara community but worldwide," a press release about the awards said.

See RUZYSKI on Page 2



ALLAN BENNER/
STAFF PHOTO
Greenpeace activist Paul Ruzyski, who spent three months detained in a Russian jail, was given a lifetime achievement environmental award by the Niagara Region Thursday night.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ RUZYCKI

Staying with Greenpeace as long as he is able

From Page 1

"It's an honour, but it's not over yet," Ruzycki said Friday, the day after receiving the award.

While Ruzycki has been representing Greenpeace for 26 years, his work gained worldwide attention last fall when he and 29 other activists were arrested off the coast of Russia after two tried to board an oil rig in the Pechora Sea Sept. 18.

The Greenpeace vessel *Arctic Sunrise*, on which Ruzycki was chief mate, was seized by Russian authorities. Everyone on board, as well as the two caught trying to board the oil rig, were arrested for piracy.

The charges were eventually lessened to hooliganism and then dropped entirely, but not before the group spent 101 days in custody.

"I didn't think the authorities would come down the way they did. All we tried to do was hang a banner to show the world what was going on," Ruzycki said. "Once we got out of jail and we had access to social media, we were all amazed at the amount of support we gathered."

Rather than scaring him off activism, he said his time being detained "strengthened my conviction for what I do." Ruzycki said he became interested in fighting for the environment as a young man when he was working on cargo ships.

"We were sailing around the Great Lakes and I was shocked to see the environmental damage," he said.

Ruzycki said he will continue being involved with Greenpeace as long as he's able.

"I believe it's the right thing to do. Greenpeace has nothing to gain by lying. We're exposing the truth. We're telling people what corporations and governments don't want people to see," he said.

Ruzycki spent the first half of 2014 at his home near Port Colborne, but plans to rejoin the Greenpeace crew by the end of July.

The Russian authorities still have the *Arctic Sunrise*, but Greenpeace officials expect to get it back and move it to their port in Amsterdam in the coming weeks. There are two other vessels the organization could use.

"Hopefully, we can start campaigning with her again soon," said Ruzycki. He doesn't know where the next campaign might take him, but he said the Arctic is the oil industry's next frontier.

"The ice is becoming less and the waters are opening, so more ships can get up there," he said. "But we already have more oil in known reserves than we can afford to burn. It's insane."

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MARCEL REDONDO / GREENPEACE
In this photo from August 2013, Port Colborne, Ont. native Paul Ruzycki, chief mate of the Greenpeace vessel *Arctic Sunrise*, is seen on board in the Barents Sea.

THE WINNERS ARE...

Niagara Region handed out its environmental awards recently. Here is a list of all the winners:

Lifetime achievement award: Paul Ruzycki.

Volunteer category: Niagara Bruce Trail Club for maintaining, stewarding and promoting the Niagara portion of the Bruce Trail.

Young people, elementary age category: Cornsight School eco team for encouraging classmates to take action within their community in the preservation of the environment.

Young people, secondary age category: Melissa Upwards, through her initiative Sea The Change has educated people on different ways to

become environmentally friendly.

Green family award: James and Simone Deboer for dedicating their time towards protecting, restoring and conserving the natural environment.

Green business category: Niagara College's sustainability committee for improving and extending existing environmental, social and economic practices through transparent decision-making at the college.

Green non-profit category: Julie Aresenault, for working with young students at Lakeview Public School to educate and empower them to become environmental steward.



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LOCAL NEWS

■ ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Janet Minor

Wainfleet native takes reins of law society

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Growing up near the Long Beach conservation area in rural Wainfleet, and with her home not yet having a TV set, Janet Minor would regularly slip next door to her grandfather's house to watch *Perry Mason*.

"That may have had some subliminal influence on my career," she quipped during a phone interview from Toronto.

"The lifetime lawyer who grew up on a dairy farm calls the Big Smoke her home now — but she does maintain a dual resi-

dency, also living at the home where the black-and-white days of a celebrity courtroom orator kept her amused so many years ago.

As its 65th treasurer, Minor last week became the top-elected official of the Law Society of Upper Canada, which regulates Ontario's 46,000 lawyers and 6,100 paralegals in the public's best interests.

"Congratulations on a splendid choice — Janet will be a very strong voice of the public interest," Lee Akazaki past-president of the Ontario Bar Association, tweeted after the announcement.

The Federation of Canadian Asian

Lawyers, too, congratulated the "Fleetster": "Janet has been a longtime friend to FACIL, and an active participant and supporter of FACIL activities and events.

Her work with the access to justice committee and the retention of women and challenges faced by radicalized licensees working groups at the Law Society of Upper Canada has made her an important partner for FACIL and other like-minded groups that seek equity, justice and opportunity for minority legal professionals and communities."

Minor said she will strive to improve the public's access to legal services, be it on levels of affordability, geography or other aspects.

In her new role — she succeeds Thomas Conway — Minor will preside over the governing board of the society established

in 1797. Like its historic name, the treasurer title is a throwback to its early days, although Minor's role has nothing to do with money and more about presidency.

"I'm very excited about my new responsibilities," she said.

"I'm very humbled when one looks at the many challenges ahead."

Those challenges, and opportunities, include globalization, technology and demographic change, and ongoing efforts to make the legal profession more inclusive.

A graduate of both University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School, Minor was called to the bar in 1975.

She has worked in public law since 1977, most recently as general counsel in the constitutional law branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General.

She was first elected as a

bencher of the law society in 2010. She played an integral role in the introduction of *Pathways*, a project to address the shortage of articling placements, involving significant changes to the experiential training component of the lawyer-licensing process.

Minor is a founding director of the Association of Law Officers of the Crown (ALOC) and past director of The Advocates' Society. She has also served on the boards of the Law Foundation of Ontario and the Ontario Justice Education Network.

She received the 2003 Women's Law Association President's Award, the 2010 Ontario Bar Association's Tom Marshall Award and the 2013 ALOC Carol Creighton Award for Contribution to Public Law.

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Twitter: @GregAtTheTrib



Janet Minor

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■ ourview

When Canada came into its own

June 28 marked the 100th anniversary of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

On that day in 1914, 19-year-old Gavrilo Princip shot the prominent Austrian on the streets of Sarajevo. This was the catalyst for the chain of events that started the First World War.

It was proclaimed as the war to end all wars, but sadly it was not the end of international conflict.

It was, however, the beginning of Canada's emergence as a country in its own right.

Canada paid a terrible price for its transformation in the eyes of the world.

Our death toll was about 67,000 along with a quarter million wounded. Considering our population at the time was about a quarter of what it is today, the "butcher's bill" is sobering.

Life at home also changed. Quite simply, it impacted everyone.

As the Veterans Affairs Canada website notes: "The struggle involved virtually the whole country and made enormous demands on the Canadian people, whether they were involved in the actual fighting or remained on the home front to work in industry or farming to support the war effort."

It was the first conflict in which Canadian forces fought in their own units and under Canadian command, rather than strictly British command.

Vimy Ridge was our finest moment in the war — taking it ensured troops could advance without falling to German fire.

Our pride in our contribution to the war effort contributed to a uniquely Canadian identity. As Veterans Affairs notes: "The victory at Vimy Ridge is celebrated as a national coming of age."

It was also part of the emergence of a distinctly Canadian patriotism.

Asked what single event created our sense of being Canadian as we know it today, many historians will point to the muddy trenches of France and the great sacrifices our relatively young nation made to do its part.

In a sense the assassination of Ferdinand can be seen as a harbinger of things to come in the tumultuous century to follow. It was the triumph at Vimy that added some swagger to our step.

A hundred years ago a seemingly small event in the Balkans changed the course of history, sending reverberations around the world.

It would change our country forever.

— QMI Agency

Jesus Encounters a leper

PASTOR GARY TOMBUCK
Wainfleet Congregational Christian Church

Jesus was a man on the move and a large part of His mission was healing the sick, raising the dead and cleansing lepers. These maladies all have special significance in the spiritual realm. I would like to examine the last of these — that being leprosy, which is what sin can be described as—moral leprosy.

In Isaiah 1:6 it says "From the Soul of your feet to the top of your head there is no soundness, only wounds and welts and open sores, no cleansed or banded or soothed with oil." Sin is as repulsive to God and even more so than the worse case of leprosy would be in our sight. Only the Lord can bind the broken hearted, dry up our running sores of sin and pour His healing oil into our raw wounds. He did that to the leper, but more of the latter.

This condition is also called Hansen's Disease which was severe and incurable at this time and especially at this stage. How do we know this? Luke who wrote the gospel of Luke was also a doctor who said in Luke 5:12, "A man came along who was covered with leprosy." We have all seen pictures of leprosy victims, but why the disfigurement? The bodies warning system of pain is destroyed. "The disease acts as a anesthetic in bringing numbness to the extremities as well as to the ears, eyes and nose."

The victims can wash their faces with

scalding water and not feel a thing. Or grip a tool so tightly that their hands become traumatized and eventually stump like. In this sense we can all thank God for pain be it physical or spiritual in that it alerts us to the fact that something is wrong and if ignored it will result in dangerous consequences. Someone has said that when the warning lights appear on the dashboard of your car you wouldn't take a hammer and smash them in would you?

Part of a quote from C.S. Lewis says that the Lord whispers to us in our pleasures but shouts to us in our pain.

God uses our pain, sickness and afflictions that we might learn how much He loves us and grow in our faith. The leper in our story also face the psychological consequences of his leprosy which were just as serious as the physical.

R.C. Sproul writes "you are not allowed near the temple and cannot enter the gates of Jerusalem, you had to live alone without the fellowship of family members or friends." Banished from people, exiled from home — crying UNCLEAN, UNCLEAN wherever you went, can you imagine what that would do to your self image and not to mention your dignity?

We've looked at No. 1, THE LEPERS CONDITION, now lets look at No. 2, THE LEPERS DETERMINATION. The leper probably thought to himself it's now or never (to see Jesus). So with determination and desperation he pushes through the milling crowds. They fan back, they insult him, they cry

out unclean ... unclean but he doesn't care what people do to him.

He knows what Jesus can do. He falls with his face in the dust in worship at the Masters feet. He begs Jesus knowing that only Jesus can heal him but he only wonders if He will. He cries out in a raspy voice "Lord if you are willing, you can make me clean." (Lk 5:12).

Mark 1:41 says that Jesus was moved with No. 3, COMPASSION, which means that He was moved to the very bowels of His being. The Lord was not worried about defiling Himself because in Luke 5:13 "Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man, I am willing. He said BE CLEAN," immediately the leprosy left him. The power of touch can go so much deeper than mere words.

This is a true story in which a man would go get a haircut every week because he wanted to feel someone touch him because he was so lonely.

And now the Lord gave his leper his first sympathetic touch in many long years. He would be UNCLEAN, no more, he would be isolated no more and he would be rejected no more, and because of the Lord's touch this leper's skin became as pink as a newborn baby, his lips, ears and nose filled in. He would now return to his family, hug his children and kiss his wife. He had a brand new life.

Do you touch the unlovelies of this world like Jesus did? If you give your life to Christ or if you have already given your life to Him you can truly say "He touched me, and made me whole"

Shipwrecks — Patricia B. McAllister

SKIP GILLMAN
For QMI Agency Niagara

The tug *Patricia B. McAllister* was built in 1976 and, as *Esso Santa Cruz*, was used to assist large tankers at the Caribbean oil loading port of Aruba.

It became *Santa Cruz* in 1987 for similar work, and then joined McAllister Towing in 1988.

The vessel arrived at Montreal for a refit on July 17, 1988, and the ship required a heaving system because one had not been installed for the previous work in the south. The vessel was strengthened for work in ice, but it had a short career.

The tug sank off the Gaspé Peninsula in the early hours of April 22, 1991, and only one of the six sailors on board survived. The hull was later found in very deep water with a large hole in the side, believed to have been caused by striking a pack of ice.



Patricia B. McAllister, pictured in Montreal on Nov. 18, 1988.

RENE REACHAMP/SPECIAL TO QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

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LOCAL NEWS

LOTTERIES

Lotto numbers keep coming up in Niagara

QMI Agency Niagara

A St. Catharines man capped off his June by winning more than \$140,000 on a Lotto 6/49 ticket, continuing a major winning streak in the area.

The jackpot comes on the heels of St. Catharines resident Brian Farthing's million-dollar win in the June 21 Lotto 6/49 draw.

Farthing, a father of four, told Ontario Lottery and Gaming officials he planned to pay off bills, take a vacation, purchase a new home, help his kids with their education and invest the rest.

"I checked my ticket at the store, just like any other day. When we realized we won, my wife and I were pretty excited — it felt like a dream," he said in a statement released by the OLG. "My family didn't believe us at first. We had to take a photo of our winning ticket."

Farthing bought his winning ticket

at the Avondale on Carlton St. in St. Catharines.

Last Wednesday, OLG said 38-year-old Andrew Dalziel of St. Catharines won \$143,618 in the June 25 draw. Dalziel said he'll pay off some bills and invest the rest of his winnings.

"I checked my ticket at the store and couldn't believe that I won," he said at the OLG Prize Centre in Toronto. "I sat in my car for about 15 minutes outside the store until I finally was able to call my wife. We started to plan all the things we could do with the money."

His ticket was purchased at Avondale on First Ave. in Welland.

A St. Catharines woman won \$100,000 on the June 14 Ontario 49 draw. And on May 23, another St. Catharines woman won \$100,000 from a Poker Lotto ticket.

Elsewhere in the region, a Fonthill senior won \$1 million on a Lotto 6/49 ticket from the June 11 draw.



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LOCAL NEWS

■ **HEALTH:** Rick Jeanneret hopes to return to broadcasting after treatment

Voice of the Buffalo Sabres has throat cancer

TONY RICCIUTO
QMI Agency Niagara

Rick Jeanneret, the broadcast voice of the Buffalo Sabres, has been diagnosed with throat cancer.

His wife, Sandra, confirmed the news last week.

Jeanneret made the announcement during an interview with the *Buffalo News*.

"He's not doing any other interviews," said Sandra. "He really is a private person. He did the one interview and is hoping that could be it for a little while."

The 71-year-old television and radio play-by-play announcer, who lives in Niagara Falls, is a legend in the broadcasting world.

Jeanneret has one of hockey's most recognizable voices and is a household name among hockey fans.

It's been reported he had a nagging sore throat that began late in the past NHL season. He thought it would pass,

but when it didn't he went to the doctor to have it checked. The doctor sent him to a ear, nose and throat specialist and the cancerous growth was discovered.

Surgery is not an option, so Jeanneret will undergo radiation therapy. He has every intention of returning to the broadcast booth and fulfilling his obligations to the Sabres, he said.

Last season, he made a deal with the Sabres to call 47 of Buffalo's games.

"We sure appreciate everybody's concern, but right now he would just like to have his privacy," said Sandra.

It's reported Jeanneret has a "golf ball-sized growth" inside his throat. He has an 85% chance of recovery.

The Sabres issued a statement expressing concern for their longtime announcer.

"The Buffalo Sabres are deeply saddened to learn of Rick Jeanneret's cancer diagnosis. RJ has been a vital part of the Sabres family and the Buffalo community for 43 years and this news undoubt-



MIKE DIMATTEO / STAFF PHOTO
Rick Jeanneret, the Buffalo Sabres play-by-play man since 1971, was diagnosed in June with throat cancer. He is shown here in this file photo at his home in Niagara Falls.

edly weighs heavily on everyone who has had the privilege of listening to his broadcasts through the years.

"As he begins treatment in the coming weeks, we will continue

to keep RJ, his wife, Sandra (and their family) in our thoughts. We wish RJ a full and speedy recovery and know his tenacity will serve him well in his fight."

The team also set up a ded-

icated e-mail address — GetWellRJ@sabres.com — for fans to send well-wishes and notes of encouragement.

tony.ricciuto@newsmedia.ca



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IN BRIEF

Welland to start Pan Am Games countdown

Pedal boat, canoe, kayak and standup paddle board rentals will all be free July 12 when Welland launches a one-year countdown to the 2015 Pan Am Games.

The Rose City will be host to the Games' spirit canoe events.

People are invited to come to the Welland International Flatwater Centre North Course on Saturday, July 12, for free We Are Pan Am fun from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to the free rentals, there will be TQ2015 prize packages and giveaways, speeches and a flag-raising ceremony. For kids there will also be face painting, an inflatable and singer Cory Curren. A free barbecue starts at 11:30 a.m.

Countdown events, also for the Parapan Am Games, are also taking place in Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square on

July 11 and 12, featuring live music, star athlete appearances, entertainers and activities the whole family.

The Toronto2015.org website on Wednesday also said the Games' host municipalities of Ajax, Burlington, Caledon, Hamilton, Markham, Milton, Mississauga and Oshawa are hosting their own special countdown festivities — but no mention was made of Welland having a celebration.

Variety Nites returns to Rose City

With the arrival of summer comes the start of Welland's longstanding Variety Nites concert series, which kicked off July 2 and runs each Wednesday until Aug. 20.

Shows take place in the theatre at Welland Community Wellness Complex at 7 p.m. There is no cost for admission.

This summer's lineup includes folk-rock band RK Walker & The Little Lines on July 9; classic rockers The Retro-Matics, July 16; Lincoln Concert Band, July 23; '50s-style rock 'n' roll band The Cruisers, July 30; '90s band The Stoves, Aug. 6; country musicians The Kitchen Music Kids, Aug. 13; and kitchen music kings Kindred, Aug. 20.

For more information on Variety Nites performers, visit www.welland.ca/Lessons/EventsInfo/VarietyNites2014LineUp.pdf.

TWO BIG SHOWS

"ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK" SHOW COMING TO PORT COLBORNE THEATRE

Fans of 1950's Rock & Roll won't want to miss "Rock Around The Clock" coming to the Roselawn Theatre in Port Colborne for two big shows on Saturday July 26 @ 8:00pm, and a special 2:00pm matinee on Sunday July 27th. This amazing "All-Star" audience-interactive show features world-class tributes to Bill Haley, Connie Francis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Ritchie Valens, and Johnny Cash.

"Rock Around The Clock" is hosted by the incredible Bill Culp, direct from a sold-out European tour, in the role of Bill Haley. In addition to his world travels, Culp is also well known to Niagara audiences as the leader of the fabulous Memphis Cats band, and his tributes to Carl Perkins and The Big Bopper. At the Roselawn show, Culp will perform all of Bill Haley's biggest hits

including "Shake Rattle and Roll", "See You Later Alligator" and of course, "Rock Around The Clock".

The "All-Star" show also includes the triumphant Canadian return of the amazing Jim Yorlido, widely considered the best Johnny Cash tribute on the planet. As the "Man in Black", Yorlido will astound audience members as he truly captures both the distinctive look and striking baritone voice of Johnny Cash. "Rock Around The Clock" also features the exciting Joe Passion as Jerry Lee Lewis, award-winning singer Loralee McQuill as Connie Francis, and Bruce Tournay as Ritchie Valens. Songs performed in the show include "Great Balls of Fire", "Lipstick on Your Collar", "Ring of Fire", "La Bamba" and many other classics from the 1950's.



BILL HALEY
by Bill Culp

Tickets to see the "Rock Around The Clock" at the Roselawn Theatre in Port Colborne on Saturday July 26 at 8:00pm and Sunday July 27 at 2:00pm are on sale now. Priced at only \$28, tickets are available by phone #905-834-7572, or via pick-up at the theatre box office at 296 Fielden Avenue, Port Colborne. Call early to get the best seats!

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DATEBOOK

JULY 15

WIMIS

training at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions.org.

JULY 21

RAINBOW LOOM

at Welland Township Public Library, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Bring your loom and hook and we'll provide the bands. Call 905-899-1277 to pre-register your attendance by the Friday prior to each session as space is limited.

JULY 23

OSEB

information sessions at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions.org to reserve a spot.

AUGUST 16

BOAT RACING, CAR SHOW

Thunder on the Grand boat races are at Wingfield Park and Main St. in Dunnville, Aug. 16 and 17. The Mickey Wolf Car Show is Aug. 17.

AUGUST 24

MS BIKE TOUR

Port Colborne's Larry Peyton is in his 10th year to raise funds to help his son who has multiple sclerosis. He has registered for the MS Bike

Tour to fulfil a personal challenge, and to help the MS Society fund research, advocate for change, and help people with MS and their families. It's estimated 55,000 to 75,000 Canadians have the disease, and every day about three more people are diagnosed. To donate go to msbike.ca or call Peyton at 905 834-6205.

ONGOING

ROSE CITY TOASTMASTERS

Have fun and improve your communication skills, for free at any or all of the Rose City Toastmasters summer meetings: July 10 and 23 and Aug. 7 and 20, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. In the Lower Community Room of Welland Arena, 501 King St., Welland. Visit welland.toastmastersclubs.org.

SECOND CAREER

Information sessions at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, on Fridays July 4, 11, 18, 25, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions.org to reserve a spot.

WAINFLEET TEEN READS

is back at Welland Township Public Library until Aug. 27. Borrow teen books to win instant prizes. Get your Teen Reads card when you select your first book. Borrow and read 10 books over the summer to be entered in our grand prize draw.

POINT ABINO LIGHTHOUSE

Guided tours are offered the second and fourth Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Departure from 1036 Point Abino Rd. S., Ridgeway, next to the Bertie Baggio Club. Reservations recommended. Cost \$6. Further info at www.willies.ca.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY

TOPS has meetings available in

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Welland on Monday or Wednesday evenings and in Port Colborne Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Come join us and learn how to live a healthier lifestyle. Call 904-734-4823 or e-mail ac.sharon@hotmail.com.

INFERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP

Niagara meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. for anyone experiencing primary infertility. Call or text 289-821-4606 or e-mail infertilityniagara@hotmail.com for location or more information.

TO SUMMER READING CLUB

is at Welland Township Public Library until Aug. 14. Our award-winning TDSRC runs six weeks and is divided into three age groups. Each child comes to one session per week. Registration forms are available in the library or at www.wellandlibrary.ca. Completed registration forms must be returned to the library to reserve your child's spot. Sessions fill quickly. No phone registrations permitted.

FIBROMYALGIA MEETING

Every second Tuesday through June at Rapelle Lodge, Plymouth Rd., Welland. More info, Vicki 905-384-

2294. Support, understanding and open discussions.

BELLEPHOPHON DRUM

and Bugle Band practises Monday nights 7 to 8 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4, Morningstar Ave., All welcome.

MAKERS' MARKET

vendors wanted. The Guild Hall Makers' Market, 72 Charlotte St., Port Colborne runs Fridays 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To inquire call Mary at 905-835-0394 or at the church office at 905-834-3184.

E-READERS

and Chromebooks are available for loan at Port Colborne Public Library. Drop by the library for more information.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

visits Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4 on Morningstar Ave., Welland, the first Tuesday of every even-numbered month, starting at 9 a.m. First come, first served.

A CAPPELLA NIAGARA

Men's Chorus invites singers for fun, fellowship and fabulous four-part harmony at Welland Community Wellness Complex, 145 Lincoln St.,

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. For information call 289-820-6589.

NIAGARA REGIONAL LITERACY

Council assists adults in improving their reading, writing, grammar, math, spelling and computer skills and provides GED preparation and readiness for work programs. Our literacy and essential skills programs are free of charge and can be done through one-on-one tutoring or small group classes. Located at 3 Great Western St., attached to the St. Catharines Via train station. Call Pat at 905-687-8299 for more information.

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY

of Niagara Region support groups for care partners meet the first Tuesday of the month, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Welland Community Wellness Complex, and second Wednesday of the month, same time, at Fort. Richelleu. For information, call 905-687-3914.

STITCH IT!

at Port Colborne Library on Mondays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Do you sew, crochet, quilt, knit or more? Bring your work-in-progress for a couple of hours of stitching and conversation. Cost is \$1 per week. Call the library at 905-834-6512 for more information.

CRAFTY CORNER

runs at Welland Township Public Library 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. the first and last Thursday of the month. Have you always wanted to finish your baby books, do some scrapbooking or just try out a craft that you have never found time for? Take some time for yourself, come out to the library and bring the crafting project you are working on, make new friends and share your ideas.



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LOCAL NEWS

POLITICS

Niagara politicians parse throne speech

BILL SAWCHUK
QMI Agency Niagara

Ontario's majority Liberal government unveiled its agenda, which includes a call for infrastructure spending – and Niagara politicians are hoping it will eventually mean good news for GO train service.

In the speech from the throne, the Liberals said they plan to spend \$130 billion on public infrastructure over 10 years to help grow Ontario's economy.

"I think the important piece is the amount of infrastructure funding," Niagara Region Chair Gary Burroughs said. "There are others that are ahead of us, so I think what we are trying to do is move Niagara's GO infrastructure piece up."

"I'm very confident they are still on the right track, and we are trying to set up

meetings with MetroLinx, the seaway authority and the province to work on a business plan. I think this government is fully aware of what Niagara wants and needs."

St. Catharines Liberal MPP Jim Bradley has been through eight premiers and even more lieutenant governors, who read the speech from the throne. He said a 20-day turnaround from an election to the speech is fast.

"We are eager to implement the agenda we have been previously, and that's exactly what we are going to do," he said. "There was a reference in the speech from the throne about transit and transit is very important to the government. You have to clear up Toronto so you can get the other routes coming in, and, of course... there is also a commitment

outside the GTA. I'm looking forward to GO transit being introduced to replace the federal VIA rail service (in Niagara) that was abandoned."

"I think the province has to step in to fill the need. Once again you will hear the federal finance minister tell you about how he is going to balance his budget. Meanwhile, we in the province have to pick up the bill for assuming federal responsibilities – and that's precisely what we are going to do."

Welland New Democrat MPP Cindy Forster said there were no surprises. She's taking a wait-and-see approach.

"Ontarians voted against austerity so we have concerns about a Liberal austerity plan that will end up with the loss of 100,000 public servants at the end of day,"

she said. "We've been calling it the Trojan Horse Plan because you don't know what's inside of it until you start to peel back the layers."

"Take, for example, the Prosperity Initiative dealing with poverty issues. The Liberals have had poverty reduction plans in the past, and we still have very high levels of poverty in the province. They talked about health care while continuing to freeze hospital budgets, and we have seen the impact of that clearly in the Niagara peninsula in recent years."

"We have a lot of discussion on GO trains and we've had some billion-dollar commitments that include regional GO train service, but no specifics of where that will actually happen."

Finance Minister Charles Sousa has said he will put forth the same budget that

triggered last month's election. He's expected to table the budget July 14.

"There was mention of two-way GO train service but no mention of any city in the speech from the throne," Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates said. "We are going to continue to pressure this government until it listens to the people of Niagara Falls and delivers daily, year-round GO service."

"If you look at our area, we've been hit hard with job loss, and the cost of living continues to climb, and it is time to get the service we need. The unemployed and underemployed can't wait any longer."

Niagara should be driving the economy of Ontario with all that we have here not the other way around."

bill.sawchuk@summedia.ca

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JULIE JOSSAK/STAFF PHOTO

MPP Jim Bradley announces that the Shickula Generating Station will move forward and will begin construction in 2015. The announcement was made at St. Catharines City Hall on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.



ANTHONY ARTUSO/QMI AGENCY

Niagara Regional Chair at Queen's Park on Thursday, February 14, 2013, to add his voice to calls for changes to the interest arbitration system in Ontario. Burroughs said arbitrators ignored the real plight of his community when awarding a three-year, 10¢ hike to police officers as well as enriched benefits.

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MONTHLY FEATURE

LOCAL NEWS

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FRIDAY JULY 11
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■ **COMMUNITY LIVING:** Program offers daily children's activities through summer

Children camp for free in Port Colborne

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Summer camp may be fun, but it can also be quite costly.

For parents unable to dig deep into their pockets to keep their children entertained while school is out, Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet has created a solution.

The organization, in partnership with Port Cares, offers Fun in the Sun free of charge from Monday to Friday.

Funded by Niagara Prosperity Initiative and Niagara Community Foundation, the program has youths aged six to 12 playing games, participating in activities outdoors and taking field trips through the summer — all at no cost.

"The whole purpose is to get kids more actively involved outdoors and in the community, while keeping it affordable for parents," said youth programs co-ordinator Rita Smith.

Fun in the Sun is geared toward low-income families in Port Colborne's East Village, but children from all neighbourhoods and income levels are welcome to participate.

Qualified staff are on site to accommodate youths with special needs.

"Some programs are just really expensive," Smith said.

"We find families in Port Colborne just can't afford it."

For families with two or three children, a paid camp may be out of the question because of the cost, said program supervisor Lyndsay Campbell.

Fun in the Sun offers an alternative — one that many families take advantage of year after year, she said.

"It's a great chance for kids to socialize with people their own age and to make new friends."

The program is in its third year and has received ongoing funding for 2015.

Along with visits to local pools and parks, some highlights of this summer's program include trips to Chocolate FX in St. David's and Happy Ralph Bird Sanctuary in St. Catharines.

To participate in the program, children simply visit Community Living, 100 McRae Ave., at 9 a.m. on the day they would like to participate. An adult must be present to register.

maryanne.firth@summedia.ca
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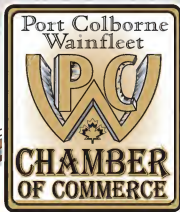
GROUP 2: Wed. 7pm - 8pm - ages 9, 10, 11, 12
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GROUP 3: Wed. 8pm - 9pm - ages 13, 14, 15, 16
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Friday the 13th Port Colborne Style!

The 19th Annual PCW Lobster and Laughs Fund-raiser was a SELL OUT Once AGAIN!

Eataly Foods did a fabulous job with our meal, even our dessert had a Lobster theme! Thank you Claudia!

The night was cool at Sugarloaf Marina Pavilion, but things quickly heated up when the comedians took the stage! Of course they were warming up to some of the crowd more than others...Ha Ha! Thank you to everyone who attended and made this event so successful. Only 330 Days till tickets go on sale for the 20th L&L...SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



State of the Communities



Photos: GREG FURMINGER/TRIBUNE

The State of the Communities Luncheon was held at the Port Colborne Country Club in Wainfleet June 5, 2014 and both Port Colborne's and Wainfleet's mayors delivered speeches at the Chamber of Commerce event, sponsored by Desjardins, Caisse Populaire Welland.



Photos: GREG FURMINGER/TRIBUNE

Upcoming Events

September 24, 2014 • Business After 5 Eataly Foods Inc
October 21, 2014 • Chambers Lunch and Learn - Social Media
October 22, 2014 • Business After 5 Meridian Credit Union
November 6, 2014 • Business Tradeshow Italian Hall



CHAMBER NEWS

Spotlight on Chamber Members

Port Colborne Physiotherapy is located at 265 King St. (In the old train station.) We've been privileged to treat the residents of the town of Port Colborne for over 8 years. Our clinicians work together and use different therapeutic approaches to treat both acute and chronic conditions. We give our patients every possible option to recover quickly, safely, and effectively. Same day appointments are available for both physiotherapy and massage therapy by calling 1-888-706-2572. Our goal is to help you get well and stay well!



Emily Culp/SP, Shaun Snee; Patient Co-Ordinator and Peter Nguyen; Physiotherapist



1st Annual Regional Chamber Social BAs

West Lincoln Chamber hosted staff and directors of Greater Fort Erie, Port Colborne/Wainfleet, Grimsby, Welland/Pelham, Lincoln, and Niagara Falls Chambers at Kacaba Winery in Vineland! Pictured are the Chamber Presidents. Marilyn Butkovic (Grimsby) Jeff Neill (Welland/Pelham), Rick Phibbs (Fort Erie), Ivan Carruthers (West Lincoln), John Maloney (Port Colborne-Wainfleet), Anna Pierce (Niagara Falls) and David Hoare (Lincoln)



Chamber Directors : Karen Audet (Fort Erie), Lynn Thomas (West Lincoln), Jinny Day (Grimsby) Jackie Jaroslawski (Port Colborne-Wainfleet), Dolores Fabiano (Welland/Pelham and Niagara Falls) and Cathy McNiven (Lincoln)



BUSINESS AFTER 5:00

April Business After 5

Event was hosted by Canalside Kitchen Store. Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber President John Maloney testing out the newest in oven mitts with store owners Greg and Rosemarie Poisson.



May Business After 5

Bremfield's Café and Floral Market hosted the May Business After 5. Pictured here are: Chamber member James Burton, Director Sandy White, store owners Rob and Bonnie Byleveld and Director Pamela Koudijs.



June Business After 5

Event was hosted by Lucy's Café and Catering. Mayor Badaway and owner Lucy Maresca-Overholt enjoying the evening in the beautiful outdoor garden patio.





CHAMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Chamber Members

The 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards recognize Niagara's next generation of business leaders. The 40 recipients are un-

der 40 years of age and consistently make their mark in business and contribute regularly to their respective communities.

Building Niagara Together

Municipal representatives shared an evening of connections and conversations, which took place on Friday June 13th, 2014 at the Welland International Flatwater Centre.

Niagara Industrial Association and the Regional Chambers sponsored this event. Special guest was Mark Oldershaw – Olympic Bronze medalist.



Sam Bellhouse; Evolution Window Films; Stephanie Babin; The Burke Group and Mark Melloni; Uge to Purgue on their achievements.



Pictured are: Mark Oldershaw and Regional Chair Gary Burnhous

April Business of the Month

Gail Todd from Something Else accepts Business of The Month for April, 2014 from Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber President John Maloney and Executive Director Jackie Jaroslowski.



June Business of the Quarter

Frank Dedonato, Branch Manager of TD Canada Trust, accepts Business of the Quarter from Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber President John Maloney and Executive Director Jackie Jaroslowski.



Members in the News:

Congratulations to Whiskey Run Golf Club on their 25th anniversary

Congratulations to Boggio Pharmacy on their 30th anniversary

Thank-You Sandy White from A.B. Whites' Insurance Brokers for donating the 50/50 money that was won at the President's Awards back into the Chamber Scholarship Fund

All the best to Port Cares Executive Director Lynda Reinhart in her retirement

Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber Members & their Employees
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Heather Price

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CHAMBER NEWS

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Meet New People and Future Customers at this Exciting New Event!



Thursday November 6, 2014

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223 Bell St. Port Colborne

4:00 – 7:30 pm

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Trade Show will be open to the public and admission will be free
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For more information call Jackie Jaroslowski at the Chamber:
905-834-9765

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday November 6, 2014

Port Colborne High School Thanks the PCW Chamber



Pictured here: Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber Executive Director Jackie Jaroslowski; Speaker Blake Fly; Meridian Credit Union Manager Midge Butson; Event Coordinator Austin Stastny and Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce President John Maloney

On April 30th, 2014 PCWS held a Youth Leadership Event with acclaimed keynote speakers Blake Fly and Sunjay Nath.

They spoke to over 400 staff and students about the importance of developing leadership skills.

To bring the speakers to the school we needed to host fundraisers at the school and solicit sponsorships from the business community.

I would like to personally thank the PCW member / sponsors: Meridian Credit Union / JB Fashions / Vale Canada / 91.7 Giant FM / LakeBreeze Niagara Studio Suites / Raw Materials INC / Stirling & Associates Inc / HollisWealth and Subway Sandwiches.

I look forward to working with all of you in the future as today's youth is the future of tomorrow!

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■ **RADIO:** Second station to be operated out of Forks Rd. building

Country station coming to Niagara

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Country is taking to the city — again. RB Communications, which runs Giant FM, has announced it will be bringing a second radio station to Welland.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has awarded a second FM licence to the company to operate Country 89 in Niagara.

Come late fall, listeners will be able to tune in to 89.1 FM for today's best country music as top artists Taylor Swift, Blake Shelton, Brad Paisley and Miranda Lambert.

The launch comes after more than two years of work and extensive market research to determine the best radio format for the region, said president Pat St. John.

"You could say we're going back to our roots," he said with a laugh.

Before changing its format in 2005,

Giant FM was known as Spirit 91.7 and provided Niagarans with their favourite country hits.

"In the last five years, country has really come into its own again," St. John said, reinforcing the decision to again move in the genre's direction.

Now that the station has been issued, "the real work begins," St. John said. Discussions have begun with technical staff, an antenna is being ordered and manufactured in Italy, and work will begin to find station staff.

St. John estimated Country 89 will create between five and seven new jobs at the Forks Rd. office, where both stations will be run.

"We've been waiting a long time for this," he said.

"We want to make sure we do it right and bring the best station we can to Niagara."

When applying for the CRTC licence in September, the company sought support from the community and feedback

regarding the proposed station.

Since that time, requests have been pouring in from people wondering when country would be making its return to Niagara, St. John said.

Country 89 will be Niaga-

ra's only country station, with its nearest competition in Hamilton and Buffalo.

"It's nice to bring something fresh to the region," he said.

St. John said the station will have local flavour and, along with

traditional local news, weather and traffic updates, will feature Niagara talent.

Call letters for Country 89 have not yet been chosen.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca



MARYANNE FIRTH/STAFF PHOTO
RB Communications vice-president and brand manager Peter Morens, left, and vice-president and general manager Peter Allen are eager to launch a second station, Country 89, out of Giant FM's Forks Rd. W. home in Welland.

PORTAL VILLAGE Killary St. W. & Steele St PORT COLBORNE

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■ **HISTORY:** More than 800 re-enactors commemorate Battle of Chippawa

Niagara's bloodiest conflict

TONY RICCIUTO
QMI Agency Niagara

The land remains a farmer's field and looks virtually the same as it did 200 years ago when Canadian, American, British and aboriginal warriors fought in the longest and bloodiest military opera-

tion of the War of 1812.

By the time it was the Battle of Chippawa, which was fought on July 5, 1814, had claimed about 200 lives.

The British were forced to withdraw and the Americans won the day.

On Saturday, more than 800 re-enactors were on that same field, on the same

day, to recreate what it must have been like to fight in that battle.

"We are here to commemorate this most significant event," Janice Thomson, chairwoman of the Niagara Parks Commission, told the large crowd.

"We are here to recognize and honour the sacrifices made some two hundred years ago, to the exact date. These lands are now protected forever by the Niagara Parks Commission," said Thomson, adding the weekend events could not have taken place without the support of community partners and volunteers.

The NPC acquired the site of the Battle of Chippawa in 1995 and has preserved 300 acres of this pristine battlefield, the last remaining site from the War of 1812.

The lands of Chippawa Battlefield have remained virtually unchanged from that fateful day in 1814 when over 5,000 British, Canadian, American and Ab-

original warriors were engaged in an intense, day-long battle that would result in the loss of 200 lives," said Thomson, adding the NPC takes great pride in managing such an important heritage site and in helping Canadian and international visitors to better understand the rich history and the contributions that were made here two centuries ago.

"Some of Canada's most important and significant moments were enacted, fought and planned within these lands now protected by the Niagara Parks and you have our assurance that we remain committed to preserving and enhancing these areas of national importance to all of us as a nation," said Thomson.

Camp activities took place throughout the day. There was a welcoming ceremony featuring the Royal Military College of Canada and the United States Military Academy followed by the tactical battle at 2 p.m. There

were also camp, horse and artillery demonstrations and the Battle of Chippawa Commemorative Service was held at 5 p.m.

On Sunday, events ran from noon to 3 p.m. and the WEGO shuttle service operated until 4 p.m.

Rick Hill, a writer and Six Nations historian, said many of their young warriors came to the Chippawa Battlefield where they fought against their cousins from across the river.

"Nearly 25% of the total force of warriors from Grand River fell here and didn't return home. Their blood still stains here as this part of our Mother Earth," said Hill. "While some warriors continued to fight on both sides throughout the duration of the war, our involvement in the War of 1812 came to a virtual end after this battle because every family was suffering and wanted their men to return home to protect our families."



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Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox (varicella-zoster virus). After the chickenpox blisters heal, the virus remains dormant in nerve cells in your body. It can become reactivated after many years resulting in shingles. It is not known exactly why the virus becomes reactivated, however it is thought that having a weakened immune system along with physical trauma, UV light or stress may play a role. The risk of developing shingles increases with age and people over 50 years old are at the greatest risk. The symptoms include a painful, blistering rash that often breaks out in one part of the body, usually the chest or upper back are involved. Sometimes the pain resulting from shingles can last for weeks, months, or rarely years, after the rash heals. This lasting pain has been described as burning, aching, throbbing or stabbing and can result from something as little as a breeze or the touch of clothing on the skin. Older people are again at greater risk. Shingles may also result in skin infections at the site of the rash or scarring following healing of the rash.

Fortunately, a vaccine is now available to boost your immune system and help to prevent shingles and its complications. It is called Zostavax and is available to adults over 50 years old. The vaccine cannot be used if you are already experiencing symptoms of shingles; it is only used for prevention. The vaccine is given as a single dose by injection just under the skin of the upper arm by a doctor or trained nurse. As all medicines and vaccines can have side effects, some people may experience redness, pain, swelling, or bruising at the site of injection or headache. These are the most common unwanted effects, but they are usually minor. This vaccine was found to reduce the risk of developing shingles by about 50-70% (depending on your age) when the first year after receiving the vaccine.

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In The NEWS

June 27, 2014

Port Cares salutes Boggio Family of Pharmacies



Hard to believe that it's been 30 years since Apple sold its first Macintosh computer, scientists discovered DNA profiling, Hill Street Blues graced television airwaves and the Boggio Family of Pharmacies set up a local shop. And while much as changed the past three decades in Port Colborne and surrounding communities, what's remained strong is the Boggio Family's commitment to their community and helping others.

"The Boggio Family of Pharmacies has been a tremendous supporter of Port Cares for many, many years. And this amazing gift of \$3,030.30 to the Port Cares Reach Out Centre in recognition of Boggio Pharmacy's 30th Anniversary is again testament to the family's community leadership and spirit," said Christine Clark-Lafleur, Executive Director of Port Cares. All of monies from the Boggio 30th Anniversary will be used for services and supplies for the Reach Out Food Centre with a portion of the funds allocated to children's services and equipment needs. "The needs at the Reach Out Food Centre are great we will do our best to make the best use of every dollar."

The Port Cares Reach Out Food Centre provides a broad range of services including food bank services, weekly meal program, activities, training and client services. "Every gift we receive is essential to providing opportunity to the people we serve. The Boggio 30th Anniversary gift will go far to help so many in need in our community," said Christine.

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IMPORT NEWS

LOCAL NEWS

COLUMN

Learn how to grow delicious cucumbers

THERESA FORTE
Special to QMI Agency Niagara

The cucumber is one of the top five most popular garden vegetables. Thanks to the good folks at the National Garden Bureau, let's take an in-depth look at this tasty vegetable.

History

The cucumber is native to India, where it has been grown for almost 3,000 years.

In ancient Egypt, cucumbers were cultivated as a common food and the populace savoured them dipped in brine. They also drank "cucumber water" as a weak liquor.

The Romans served cucumbers raw or boiled with oil, vinegar and honey.

The cucumber appeared in England during the reign of Henry VIII when Catherine of Aragon demanded them for her Spanish salads. By the time Elizabeth I ascended the English throne, five distinct varieties were grown: Common, Turkish, Adder, Pear and Spanish.

Cucumbers arrived in America with Columbus. He grew them in an experimental garden in 1493. By 1806 eight varieties of cucumbers would be found growing in colonial

gardens.

Physicians of the 17th century prescribed placing fever patients on a bed of cucumbers so they would become "cool, as a cucumber."

The most famous pickled cucumber of the 19th century was the one first preserved by H.J. Heinz of Pittsburgh. Heinz began bottling pickles in 1870.

In recent history, cucumbers were grown in space by Russian cosmonauts aboard Salut-7 during a 211-day endurance flight. Cucumbers have been cultivated successfully nearly one mile beneath the earth's surface in an Ontario nickel mine during a food project sponsored by the Canadian government.

Nomenclature

Home gardeners refer to "cukes," but botanists term this crunchy vegetable *Cucumis sativus*. Cucumbers are distant cousins to squash, pumpkin, melon and gourds. All are characterized by trailing vines with rough, hairy leaves. Cucumbers have yellow flowers that bear fruit that may be globular, oblong or cylindrical. Most cucumbers are a dark green colour and have prickly skin when immature but look for the white, yellow and brown

varieties also.

How to grow

Cucumbers like to bask in the sun. The soil should be light, fertile and well-drained. Amending the soil with plenty of compost or well-rotted manure will ensure good yields. A soggy garden will promote disease and cut down production.

How much space is allotted to the cucumber patch depends on the variety chosen. Standard types may spread 1.2 to 1.5 metres; grow them 1.2 to 1.5 m apart. Dwarf and bush varieties require much less space. Cucumbers are among the thirstiest of vegetables. The National Garden Bureau recommends long, deep watering rather than frequent sprinklings. Mulching will repay the gardener's efforts threefold. Moisture is conserved, soil temperature remains uniform and weed growth is deterred.

Once the seedlings have grown a few inches, put down a three- to four-inch layer of organic mulch or cover. Cucumbers are heavy feeders. A side dressing of 5-10-10 fertilizer at the time of planting and once a month thereafter is sufficient.

Vertical culture

It's true that cucumbers are greedy for space, but they needn't dominate the entire vegetable plot. They adapt well to vertical growing. Many types of support materials can be used for training cukes. A lattice, trellis or A-frame with netting is simple to construct and easy to incorporate into a garden design. Use a structure at least six feet high and place it a few inches off the ground to allow for air movement. Help the young cucumber plants find the structure by placing their tendrils around the support and tying them. Continue training vines up the support as needed. Growing cucumbers vertically produces straight, bue ribbon quality cucumbers.

Container Growing

City dwellers can easily raise cucumbers on a patio deck or in hanging baskets.

The bush slicing varieties produce full-size fruits and are ideal for container gardening. Wooden tubs, half wine barrels or any large container with drainage holes can be used. The standard cultural advice still applies: light-weight soil mix, fertilizer and plenty of water. Why not tuck a few cascading nasturtiums in the basket with the cucumber to provide food for the eye and palate both?

Harvest

There are three rules for harvesting cucumbers — pick, pick and pick. If mature fruit is left on the vine, the plant figures it has finished production and will stop setting new fruit. Slices are mature when 15 to 20 centimetres long. The larger slicing varieties should be picked before they are 25 centimetres long. Pickling varieties are

harvested small, between eight and 10 centimetres.

Most cucumbers reach maturity in 50 to 65 days. The fruit will be firm to the touch and the skin will have a uniform dark green colour. To avoid damage to the vine, cut or clip the cuke from the plant rather than twisting or pulling it. Refrigerate as soon as possible for the freshest flavour.

Cucumbers are not only easy to grow but delicious because of the fresh, crisp and cool flesh. Enjoy the fruits of your harvest in salads and salsas, on sandwiches or made into pickles. No matter how you slice them, cucumbers taste great.

Theresa Forte is a local garden writer, photographer and speaker. You can reach her by calling 905-351-7540 or by e-mailing theresa_forte@sympatico.ca.

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■ FUNDRAISER

Grapes of Wrath draws extreme participants

KARENA WALTER
QMI Agency Niagara

If James Bond was wading through muddy waters, scaling high walls and crawling on his belly under tarp, he might be dressed like friends Rick Frank and Kevin Ken.

But there likely aren't too many others who would want to don black suits to run the five-kilometre Grapes of Wrath Extreme Obstacle and Mud race.

"The swimming was the hardest part," Frank said after the Saturday event, which required participants to wade through muddy water only to crawl up a steep hill using rope.

"I think we're the only ones who didn't get rope burn though."

The event at 13th Street Winery in St. Catharines drew 1,000 participants who raised money for the Canadian Cancer Society's Niagara transportation program Wheels of Hope.

Grapes of Wrath organizer Michelle Begin-Lillo said the event has become a major fundraiser for the Niagara chapter in just three years.

Frank's team Of Mud and Muck included his wife, Lorna Deeth, who wore an ankle-length green poufy dress. The pair from Vineland did the race last year with Ken, their friend from Georgetown, and brought others on board this year with a formal wear theme.

"We wanted to do a SK and it was something a little different," Deeth said. "Challenging ourselves, something outside the limits."

The number of obstacles at the event were bumped up from 13 to 17 this year, including a Bitchin' Rope Cross, Barrel Bounce River Crossing and Ice Whine, which saw racers get immersed in ice water and then belly crawl 42 feet under greenhouse tenting.

"Super ice cold to 100 degree heat," said Begin-Lillo with a hint of glee. "We're always trying to raise the bar. We've taken some of our existing obstacles and made them bigger and better."

She said the idea is to continue to challenge the seasoned athletes and participants who come every year while making it fun for everyone else, too.

"The rope one was the big surprise and the ice bath was quite a shock," said Marianne Potts of St. Catharines, who was participating for the second year.

Her team Charlie's Angels was made up of four kindergarten teachers from St. Charles School in Thorold.

"I think we've all been touched by someone diagnosed with cancer or fighting cancer," Potts said, adding her grandfather died of cancer so it hit close to home.

"We're racing for them. It's a great cause."

Like many participants at the event, members of Team Warriors from Thorold had the names of loved ones and friends who have battled cancer written on their skin.

"We've all been affected by cancer," said Krista Butters, who was running with the group of women who all work out at Warrior Fitness.

Others were taking up the challenge purely for the sport of it.

"I'm doing it because it's here. It's a great event. Great cause. It's fun," said Joe Zack of Welland, a Tough Mudder veteran who planned to do the Grapes of Wrath course nine times Saturday.

"I just love obstacle racing. It's great that it's local and it's a really well-run event."

The amount raised was not available Sunday.

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■ **AGRICULTURE:** Cherry season looks promising to local farmers

Ripe for the picking

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

For Kim Duffin, success has never tasted so sweet.

The trees in her family's orchard are filled with so much fruit, the branches have begun cascading toward the ground.

Ripe for the picking are sweet cherries that grew not only in abundance, but also each packing a burst of flavour Duffin Farms in Pelham has been waiting seasons for.

"We're looking at an excellent season because of all the hot weather we've been having," Duffin said Thursday while breaking from a day of baking cherry pies at the Rice Rd. business.

Last year's rainy cherry season left much of the fruit crop soured and split — nothing like the large, sweet offerings Duffin Farms is experiencing this time around.

It's good news for the farm's many customers — some who pick their own cherries from the trees and others who simply stop by for a ready-to-go basket of the juicy, red fruit.

With two poor consecutive seasons hitting Niagara in the past, cherry lovers were thrilled to hear this year's harvest was promising, said Jill Welland, owner of Welland Sweet Cherry Farm in Pel-

ham.

Busloads of people visited the Haist St. farm during the recent long weekend to pick their own baskets of the popular fruit.

"It's an experience they missed for the last two years," Welland said, adding many were eager to resume their tradition.

The season is expected to last another two weeks and she's hopeful the weather will co-operate.

"We've got a heavy crop on. So far, the pattern is looking good. This is definitely the best we've had in a couple of years."

Both Second still shudders when she thinks about the past two seasons.

"I don't like to talk about it," said the owner of Mathias Farms on Eppingham St. in Pelham.

"Last year, we had four inches of rain on the third day we were open and everything split," she said, while adding this season has seemed much more positive.

Since starting the farm's harvest in late June, there have been visitors from Toronto, Timmins and even as far as Quebec dropping by to pick baskets of cherries.

As the season doesn't last long, Second advised people with a craving for fresh cherries to "grab them while you see them and support local."

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Thursday July 10th - 6 pm - 11 pm
Friday July 11th - 6 pm - 11 pm
Saturday July 12th - 1 pm - 11 pm
Sunday July 13th - 1 pm - 6 pm

**Port Colbornes own
Music Depot Superstars
Friday 7:30 PM**



Vouchers only on sale until July 09th

PORT COLBORNE LIONS CLUB
Presents **84th Annual**
CARNIVAL
WORLD'S FINEST SHOWS • JULY 10th - 13th

- Fish Fry- Friday Night
- Waffles and Donuts - Every night
- Bingo - Every night - Sunday 3pm - 6pm
- Main Food Booth - Sausage, Hamburgers, Fries, Pizza and Hot Dogs
- Two Crown and Anchor Wheels

FRIDAY IS WRIST BAND NIGHT \$25.00

PRIZES

1. Nightly draw - Stuffed animal - \$100 cash per night Donated by Tuck's Jewelers
2. Electric Scooter donated by Royal LePage Real Estate
3. Barbecue and \$200 Meat Package Provided by Tender Cuts And PC Home Hardware
4. A Garage heater donated by Easy Radiant Works Wainfleet.
5. Prize draws will be held on SUNDAY at 7 pm
6. Custom Home Cinema system, LG Hi-Def & Sound Bar provided by Davidson Funeral Home and Boggio's Pharmacy
7. 2014 21 Speed Bike and Helmet provided by Canadian Tire, Port Colborne
8. No Frills Port Colborne, 1 year's worth of groceries (\$100 a month for 12 months)
9. Lioness \$2000 Money Draw, provided by Port Colborne Lioness

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WRISTBAND

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Friday Wristbands

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July 10th \$200 • July 11th \$200
July 12th \$200 • July 13th \$1200

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July 25, 27, August 2, 17,
22, 23 - 8pm



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July 23, 31, August 9, 16, 17, 29 - 8pm



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August 14, 15 - 8pm



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August 17 - 8pm

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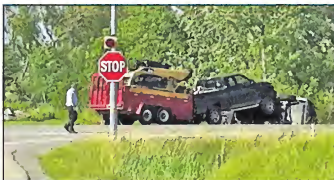


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LOCAL NEWS

ACCIDENT



BOB HOWLE/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

A Dodge pickup truck slammed into the driver side of a Dodge Caravan Wednesday on Regional Rd. 65 at Caistorville Rd. in West Lincoln. Police said Saturday a boy involved in the crash has since died.

Boy dies from injuries in West Lincoln crash

QMI Agency Niagara
A 15-year-old boy who was the passenger in a van that crashed in West Lincoln on Wednesday has died.

Niagara Regional Police said they learned Saturday the boy died from his injuries at Hamilton Health Sciences General Hospital.

He was the front seat passenger in a Dodge Caravan being driven by a 37-year-old woman from Dunnville on July 2. The van was also carrying four younger children.

Police said the van was going north on Caistorville Rd. around 2:40 p.m. and

made a left turn onto Silver St., directly into the path of an eastbound Dodge Ram pickup truck towing a loaded trailer.

The van was pushed off the north edge of the road and both vehicles ended up in the ditch.

The female driver and the 15-year-old boy were taken to Hamilton Health Sciences Hospital. Police said Saturday the woman remains in critical condition.

Police said the four other children continue to improve.

The driver and passenger in the pickup truck were not injured.

No names have been released.

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